Interest of Indian settlers in Fiji

1977. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken up with the Fiji, after its new Government formation, regarding safeguard of Indian settlers there;

(b) if so, the details thereof and also their response thereto; and

(c) if not, whether it is proposed to take up this issue now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) External Affairs Minister met Prime Minister of Fiji, Laisenia Qarase in March' 2002 on the margins of the Commonwealth Summit in Coolum, Australia. He reiterated our position to the Fijian Prime Minister that Indians in Fiji are Fijians, and should be treated as equal citizens. All Fijians must enjoy equal economic, social and political rights. The Fijian Prime Minister was also urged to safeguard the Constitution in a manner that is truly representative of all sections of the Fijian population.

(c) We will continue to interact with the Government of Fiji to highlight our concerns regarding the interests of Fijians of Indian origin.

Russian suggestion to Pakistan to stop intrusion in India

1978. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Russia had told Pakistan to take concrete action to stop intrusion of terrorists in India and stop their terrorist activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): The Joint Statement signed and issued on 3 February, 2002 during the visit to India by Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Mr. Igor Ivanov mentioned that during the discussion on South Asia, the Russian side reiterated its strong condemnation of continued acts of